

DISASTER RELIEF ACT OF 1970

DECEMBER 15, 1970.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. JONES of Alabama, from the committee of conference,
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany S. 3619]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 3619) to revise and expand Federal programs for the relief from the effects of major disasters, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment insert the following:

That this Act may be cited as the "Disaster Relief Act of 1970".

TITLE I—FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS; DEFINITIONS

FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS

SEC. 101. (a) *The Congress hereby finds and declares that—*

(1) *because loss of life, human suffering, loss of income, and property loss and damage result from major disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, storms, floods, high waters, wind-driven waters, tidal waves, earthquakes, droughts, fires, and other catastrophes; and*

(2) *because such disasters disrupt the normal functioning of government and the community, and adversely affect individual persons and families with great severity;*

special measures, designed to assist the efforts of the affected States in expediting the rendering of aid, assistance, and emergency welfare services, and the reconstruction and rehabilitation of devastated areas, are necessary.

(b) *It is the intent of the Congress, by this Act, to provide an orderly and continuing means of assistance by the Federal Government to State and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to alleviate the suffering and damage which result from such disasters by—*

- (1) revising and broadening the scope of existing major disaster relief programs;
- (2) encouraging the development of comprehensive disaster relief plans, programs, and organizations by the States; and
- (3) achieving greater coordination and responsiveness of Federal major disaster relief programs.

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 102. As used in this Act—

(1) "major disaster" means any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, drought, fire, or other catastrophe in any part of the United States, which, in the determination of the President, is or threatens to be of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant disaster assistance by the Federal Government to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby, and with respect to which the Governor of any State in which such catastrophe occurs or threatens to occur certifies the need for Federal disaster assistance under this Act and gives assurance of the expenditure of a reasonable amount of the funds of such State, its local governments, or other agencies for alleviating the damage, loss, hardship or suffering resulting from such catastrophe;

(2) "United States" means the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;

(3) "State" means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;

(4) "Governor" means the chief executive of any State;

(5) "local government" means any county, city, village, town, district, or other political subdivision of any State, and includes any rural community or unincorporated town or village for which an application for assistance is made by a State or political subdivision thereof;

(6) "Federal agency" means any department, independent establishment, Government corporation, or other agency of the executive branch of the Federal Government, except the American National Red Cross; and

(7) "Director" means the Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness.

TITLE II—THE ADMINISTRATION OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE

FEDERAL COORDINATING OFFICER

SEC. 201. (a) Immediately upon his designation of a major disaster area, the President shall appoint a Federal coordinating officer to operate under the Office of Emergency Preparedness in such area.

(b) In order to effectuate the purposes of this Act, the coordinating officer, within the designated area, shall

- (1) make an initial appraisal of the types of relief most urgently needed;

(2) establish such field offices as he deems necessary and as are authorized by the Director;

(3) coordinate the administration of relief, including activities of the American National Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Mennonite Disaster Service, and other relief or disaster assistance organizations which agree to operate under his advice or direction, except that nothing contained in this Act shall limit or in any way affect the responsibilities of the American National Red Cross under the Act of January 5, 1905, as amended (33 Stat. 599); and

(4) take such other action, consistent with authority delegated to him by the Director, and consistent with the provisions of this Act, as he may deem necessary to assist local citizens and public officials in promptly obtaining assistance to which they are entitled.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAMS

SEC. 202. The Director is authorized to form emergency support teams of Federal personnel to be deployed in a major disaster area. Such emergency support teams shall assist the Federal coordinating officer in carrying out his responsibilities pursuant to section 201(b) of this Act. Upon request of the Director, the head of any Federal department or agency is authorized to detail to temporary duty with the emergency support teams on either a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, as is determined necessary by the discretion of the Director, such personnel within the administrative jurisdiction of the head of the Federal department or agency as the Director may need or believe to be useful for carrying out the functions of the emergency support teams, each such detail to be without loss of seniority, pay, or other employee status.

COOPERATION OF FEDERAL AGENCIES IN RENDERING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

SEC. 203. (a) In any major disaster, Federal agencies are hereby authorized, on direction of the President, to provide assistance by—

(1) utilizing or lending, with or without compensation therefor, to States and local governments, their equipment, supplies, facilities, personnel, and other resources, other than the extension of credit under the authority of any Act;

(2) distributing or rendering, through the American National Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Mennonite Disaster Service, and other relief and disaster assistance organizations, or otherwise, medicine, food, and other consumable supplies, or emergency assistance;

(3) donating or lending equipment and supplies determined in accordance with applicable laws to be surplus to the needs and responsibilities of the Federal Government to State and local governments for use or distribution by them for the purposes of this Act; and

(4) performing on public or private lands or waters any emergency work essential for the protection and preservation of life and property, including—

(A) clearing and removing debris and wreckage in accordance with section 224;

(B) making repairs to, restoring to service, or replacing public facilities (including street, road, and highway facilities) of State and local governments damaged or destroyed by a major disaster, except that the Federal contributions therefor shall not

exceed the net cost of restoring each such facility on the basis of the design of such facility as it existed immediately prior to the disaster in conformity with current codes, specifications, and standards;

(C) providing emergency shelter for individuals and families who, as a result of a major disaster, require such assistance; and

(D) making contributions to State or local governments for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of paragraph (4).

(b) Emergency work performed under subsection (a) (4) of this section shall not preclude Federal assistance under any other section of this Act.

(c) Federal agencies may be reimbursed for expenditures under this Act from funds appropriated for the purposes of this Act. Any funds received by Federal agencies as reimbursement for services or supplies furnished under the authority of this section shall be deposited to the credit of the appropriation or appropriations currently available for such services or supplies.

(d) The Federal Government shall not be liable for any claim based upon the exercise or performance or the failure to exercise or perform a discretionary function or duty on the part of a Federal agency or an employee of the Federal Government in carrying out the provisions of this section.

(e) In carrying out the purposes of this Act, any Federal agency is authorized to accept and utilize the services or facilities of any State or local government, or of any agency, office, or employee thereof, with the consent of such government. Any Federal agency, in performing any activities under this section, is authorized to appoint and fix the compensation of such temporary personnel as may be necessary, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, to employ experts and consultants in accordance with the provisions of section 3109 of such title, and to incur obligations on behalf of the United States by contract or otherwise for the acquisition, rental, or hire of equipment, services, materials, and supplies for shipping, drayage, travel, and communications, and for the supervision and administration of such activities. Such obligations, including obligations arising out of the temporary employment of additional personnel, may be incurred by an agency in such amount as may be made available to it by the President.

(f) In the interest of providing maximum mobilization of Federal assistance under this Act, the President is authorized to coordinate in such manner as he may determine the activities of Federal agencies in providing disaster assistance. The President may direct any Federal agency, with or without reimbursement, to utilize its available personnel, equipment supplies, facilities, and other resources in accordance with the authority, herein contained. The President may prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper to carry out any of the provisions of this Act, and he may exercise any power or authority conferred on him by any section of this Act either directly or through such Federal agency as he may designate.

(g) The President, acting through the Office of Emergency Preparedness, shall conduct periodic reviews (at least annually) of the activities of Federal and State departments or agencies providing disaster assistance, in

order to assure maximum coordination of such programs, and to evaluate progress being made in the development of Federal, State, and local preparedness to cope with major disasters.

(h) The Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness is authorized and directed to make in cooperation with the heads of other affected Federal and State agencies, a full and complete investigation and study for the purpose of determining what additional or improved plans, procedures, and facilities are necessary to provide immediate effective action to prevent or minimize losses of publicly or privately owned property and personal injuries or deaths which could result from fires (forest and grass), earthquakes, tornadoes, freezes and frosts, tsunامي, storm surges and tides, and floods, which are or threaten to become major disasters. Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and from time to time, the Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness shall report to Congress the findings of this study and investigation together with his recommendations with respect thereto.

USE OF LOCAL FIRMS AND INDIVIDUALS

SEC. 204. In the expenditure of Federal funds for debris clearance, distribution of supplies, reconstruction, and other major disaster assistance activities which may be carried out by contract with private organizations, firms, or individuals, preference shall be given, to the extent feasible and practicable, to those organizations, firms, and individuals who reside or do business primarily in the disaster area.

FEDERAL GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAMS

SEC. 205. Any Federal agency charged with the administration of a Federal grant-in-aid program is authorized, if so requested by the applicant State or local authorities, to modify or waive, for the duration of a major disaster proclamation, such administrative procedural conditions for assistance as would otherwise prevent the giving of assistance under such programs if the inability to meet such conditions is a result of the disaster.

STATE DISASTER PLANS

SEC. 206. (a) The President is authorized to provide assistance to the States in developing comprehensive plans and practicable programs for preparation against major disasters, and for relief and assistance for individuals, businesses, and local governments following such disasters. Such plans should include long-range recovery and reconstruction assistance plans for seriously damaged or destroyed public and private facilities.

(b) The President is authorized to make grants of not more than \$250,000 to any State, upon application therefor, for not to exceed 50 per centum of the cost of developing such plans and programs.

(c) Any State desiring assistance under this section shall designate or create an agency which is specially qualified to plan and administer such a disaster relief program, and shall, through such agency, submit a State plan to the President, which shall—

(1) set forth a comprehensive and detailed State program for preparation against, and relief following, a major disaster, including provisions for emergency and long-term assistance to individuals, businesses, and local governments; and

(2) include provision for the appointment of a State coordinating officer to act in cooperation with the Federal coordinating officer appointed under section 201 of this Act.

(d) From time to time the Director shall make a report to the President, for submission to the Congress, containing his recommendations for programs for the Federal role in the implementation and funding of comprehensive disaster relief plans, and such other recommendations relating to the Federal role in disaster relief activities as he deems warranted.

(e) The President is authorized to make grants not to exceed 50 per centum of the cost of improving, maintaining, and updating State disaster assistance plans, except that no such grant shall exceed \$25,000 per annum to any State.

USE AND COORDINATION OF RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS

SEC. 207. (a) In providing relief and assistance following a major disaster, the Director may utilize, with their consent, the personnel and facilities of the American National Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Mennonite Disaster Service, and other relief or disaster assistance organizations, in the distribution of medicine, food, supplies, or other items, and in the restoration, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of community services and essential facilities, whenever the Director finds that such utilization is necessary.

(b) The Director is authorized to enter into agreements with the American National Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Mennonite Disaster Service, and other relief or disaster assistance organizations under which the disaster relief activities of such organizations may be coordinated by the Federal coordinating officer whenever such organizations are engaged in providing relief during and after a major disaster. Any such agreement shall include provisions conditioning use of the facilities of the Office of Emergency Preparedness and the services of the coordinating officer upon compliance with regulations promulgated by the Director under sections 208 and 209 of this Act, and such other regulations as the Director may require.

DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS

SEC. 208. (a) The Director, in consultation with the head of each Federal agency administering any program providing financial assistance to persons, business concerns, or other entities suffering losses as the result of a major disaster, shall assure that no such person, business concern, or other entity will receive such assistance with respect to any part of such loss as to which he has received financial assistance under any other program.

(b) The Director shall assure that no person, business concern, or other entity receives any Federal assistance for any part of a loss suffered as the result of a major disaster if such person, concern, or entity received compensation from insurance or any other source for that part of such a loss. Partial compensation for a loss or a part of a loss resulting from a major disaster shall not preclude additional Federal assistance for any part of such a loss not compensated otherwise.

(c) Whenever the Director determines (1) that a person, business concern, or other entity has received assistance under this Act for a loss and that such person, business concern or other entity received assistance for the same loss from another source, and (2) that the amount received from all sources exceeded the amount of the loss, he shall direct such person, business concern, or other entity to pay to the Treasury an amount, not to exceed the amount of Federal assistance received, sufficient to reimburse the Federal Government for that part of the assistance which he deems excessive.

NONDISCRIMINATION IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

SEC. 209. (a) *The Director shall issue, and may alter and amend, such regulations as may be necessary for the guidance of personnel carrying out emergency relief functions at the site of a major disaster. Such regulations shall include provisions for insuring that the distribution of supplies, the processing of applications, and other relief and assistance activities shall be accomplished in an equitable and impartial manner, without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, or economic status prior to a major disaster.*

(b) *As a condition of participation in the distribution of assistance or supplies under section 207, relief organizations shall be required to comply with regulations relating to nondiscrimination promulgated by the Director, and such other regulations applicable to activities within a major disaster area as he deems necessary for the effective coordination of relief efforts.*

DISASTER WARNINGS

SEC. 210. *The President is authorized to utilize or to make available to Federal, State, and local agencies the facilities of the civil defense communications system established and maintained pursuant to section 201(c) of the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. app. 2281(c)), for the purpose of providing needed warning to governmental authorities and the civilian population in areas endangered by imminent major disasters.*

PREDISASTER ASSISTANCE

SEC. 221. *If the President determines that a major disaster is imminent, he is authorized to use Federal departments, agencies, and instrumentalities, and all other resources of the Federal Government to avert or lessen the effects of such disaster before its actual occurrence.*

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

SEC. 222. *The Director is authorized during, or in anticipation of, an emergency to establish temporary communications in any major disaster area in order to carry out the functions of his office, and to make such communications available to State and local government officials and other persons as he deems appropriate.*

EMERGENCY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 223. *The Director is authorized to provide temporary public transportation service to meet emergency needs in a major disaster area. Such service will provide transportation to governmental offices, supply centers, stores, post offices, schools, major employment centers, and such other places as may be necessary in order to enable the community to resume its normal pattern of life as soon as possible.*

DEBRIS REMOVAL

SEC. 224. (a) *The President, whenever he determines it to be in the public interest, is authorized—*

(1) *through the use of Federal departments, agencies, and instrumentalities, to clear debris and wreckage resulting from a major disaster from publicly and privately owned lands and waters.*

(2) *to make grants to any State or local government for the purpose of removing debris or wreckage resulting from a major disaster from publicly or privately owned lands and waters.*

(b) No authority under this section shall be exercised unless the affected State or local government shall first arrange an unconditional authorization for removal of such debris or wreckage from public and private property, and, in the case of removal of debris or wreckage from private property, shall first agree to indemnify the Federal Government against any claim arising from such removal.

FIRE SUPPRESSION GRANTS

SEC. 225. The President is authorized to provide assistance, including grants, to any State for the suppression of any fire on publicly or privately owned forest or grassland which threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.

TEMPORARY HOUSING ASSISTANCE

SEC. 226. (a) The Director is authorized to provide temporary housing or other emergency shelter, including, but not limited to, mobile homes or other readily fabricated dwellings for those who, as a result of such major disaster, require temporary housing or other emergency shelter, except that for the first twelve months of occupancy no rentals shall be established for any such accommodations, thereafter rentals shall be established, based upon fair market value of the accommodations being furnished, adjusted to take into consideration the financial ability of the occupant. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any such emergency housing acquired by purchase may be sold directly to individuals and families who are occupants thereof at prices that are fair and equitable. Any mobile home or readily fabricated dwelling shall be placed on a site complete with utilities provided by State or local government, or by the owner or occupant of the site who was displaced by the major disaster, without charge to the United States. However, the Director may elect to provide other more economical and accessible sites at Federal expense when he determines such action to be in the public interest.

(b) The President is authorized to provide assistance on a temporary basis in the form of mortgage or rental payments to or on behalf of individuals and families who, as a result of financial hardship caused by a major disaster, have received written notice of dispossession or eviction from a residence by reason of foreclosure of any mortgage or lien, cancellation of any contract of sale, or termination of any lease, entered into prior to the disaster. Such assistance shall be provided for a period of not to exceed one year or for the duration of the period of financial hardship, whichever is the lesser. The President is authorized for the purposes of this subsection and in furtherance of the purposes of section 240 of this Act, to provide reemployment assistance services under other laws to individuals who are unemployed as a result of a major disaster.

SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER LOANS

SEC. 231. In the administration of the disaster loan program under section 7(b) (1), (2), and (4) of the Small Business Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), in the case of property loss or damage or injury resulting from a major disaster as determined by the President or a disaster as determined by the Administrator, the Small Business Administration—

(1) to the extent such loss or damage or injury is not compensated for by insurance or otherwise, (A) shall, on that part of any loan in

excess of \$500, cancel the principal of the loan, except that the total amount so canceled shall not exceed \$2,500, except that this clause (A) shall apply only to loans made to cover losses and damage and injury resulting from major disasters as determined by the President, and (B) may defer interest payments or principal payments, or both, in whole or in part, on any loan made under this section during the first three years of the term of the loan except that any such deferred payments shall bear interest at the rate determined under section 234 of this Act.

(2) to the extent such injury, loss, or damage is not compensated for by insurance or otherwise, may grant any loan for repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of property damaged, or destroyed, without regard to whether the required financial assistance is otherwise available from private sources.

(3) may, in the case of the total destruction or substantial property damage of a home or business concern, refinance any mortgage or other liens outstanding against the destroyed or damaged property if such property is to be repaired, rehabilitated, or replaced, except that the amount refinanced shall not exceed the amount of the physical loss sustained. Any such refinancing shall be subject to the provisions of clauses (1) and (2) of this section.

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION EMERGENCY LOANS

SEC. 232. In the administration of the emergency loan program under subtitle C of the Consolidated Farmers Home Administration Act of 1961, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1961-1967), and the rural housing loan program under section 502 of title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1472), in the case of loss or damage, resulting from a major disaster as determined by the President, or a natural disaster as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture—

(1) to the extent such loss or damage is not compensated for by insurance or otherwise, (A) shall, on that part of any loan in excess of \$500, cancel the principal of the loan, except that the total amount so canceled shall not exceed \$2,500, except that this clause (A) shall apply only to loans made to cover losses and damage resulting from major disasters as determined by the President, and (B) may defer interest payments or principal payments, or both, in whole or in part, on any loan made under this section during the first three years of the term of the loan, except that any such deferred payments shall bear interest at the rate determined under section 234 of this Act.

(2) to the extent such injury, loss, or damage is not compensated for by insurance or otherwise, may grant any loan for repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of property damaged or destroyed, without regard to whether the required financial assistance is otherwise available from private sources.

(3) may, in the case of the total destruction or substantial property damage of homes or farm service buildings and related structures and equipment, refinance any mortgage or other liens outstanding against the destroyed or damaged property if such property is to be repaired, rehabilitated, or replaced, except that the amount refinanced shall not exceed the amount of the physical loss sustained. Any such refinancing shall be subject to the provisions of clauses (1) and (2) of this section.

LOANS HELD BY THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 233. (1) Section 1820(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(2) subject to specific limitations in this chapter, consent to the modification, with respect to rate of interest, time of payment of principal or interest or any portion thereof, security or other provisions of any note, contract, mortgage or other instrument securing a loan which has been guaranteed, insured, made or acquired under this chapter;"

(2) Section 1820(f) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(f) Whenever loss, destruction, or damage to any residential property securing loans guaranteed, insured, made, or acquired by the Administrator under this chapter occurs as the result of a major disaster as determined by the President under the Disaster Assistance Act of 1970, the Administrator shall (1) provide counseling and such other service to the owner of such property as may be feasible and shall inform such owner concerning the disaster assistance available from other Federal agencies and from State or local agencies, and (2) pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of this section, extend on an individual case basis such forbearance or indulgence to such owner as the Administrator determines to be warranted by the facts of the case and the circumstances of such owner."

DISASTER LOAN INTEREST RATES

SEC. 234. Any loan made under sections 231, and 232 of this Act shall not exceed the current cost of repairing or replacing the disaster injury, loss, or damage in conformity with current codes and specifications. Any loan made under sections 231, 232, 236(b) and 237 of this Act shall bear interest at a rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, taking into consideration the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with remaining periods to maturity of ten to twelve years reduced by not to exceed 2 per centum per annum. In no event shall any loan made under this section bear interest at a rate in excess of 6 per centum per annum.

AGE OF APPLICANT FOR LOANS

SEC. 235. In the administration of any Federal disaster loan program under the authority of section 231, 232, or 233 of this Act, the age of any adult loan applicant shall not be considered in determining whether such loan should be made or the amount of such loan.

FEDERAL LOAN ADJUSTMENTS

SEC. 236. (a) In addition to the loan extension authority provided in section 12 of the Rural Electrification Act, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to adjust and readjust the schedules for payment of principal and interest on loans to borrowers under programs administered by the Rural Electrification Administration, and to extend the maturity date of any such loan to a date not beyond forty years from the date of such loan where he determines such action is necessary because of the impairment of the economic feasibility of the system, or the loss, destruction, or damage of the property of such borrowers as a result of a major disaster.

(b) *The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to refinance any note or other obligation which is held by him in connection with any loan made by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or its predecessor in interest, or which is included within the revolving fund for liquidating programs established by the Independent Offices Appropriation Act of 1955, where he finds such refinancing necessary because of the loss, destruction, or damage (as a result of a major disaster) to property or facilities securing such obligations. The Secretary may authorize a suspension in the payment of principal and interest charges on, and an additional extension in the maturity of, any such loan for a period not to exceed five years if he determines that such action is necessary to avoid severe financial hardship.*

AID TO MAJOR SOURCES OF EMPLOYMENT

SEC. 237. (a) The Small Business Administration in the case of a nonagricultural enterprise, and the Farmers Home Administration in the case of an agricultural enterprise, are authorized to provide any industrial, commercial, agricultural, or other enterprise, which has constituted a major source of employment in an area suffering a major disaster and which is no longer in substantial operation as a result of such disaster, a loan in such amount as may be necessary to enable such enterprise to resume operations in order to assist in restoring the economic viability of the disaster area. Loans authorized by this section shall be made without regard to limitations on the size of loans which may otherwise be imposed by any other provision of law or regulation promulgated pursuant thereto.

(b) Assistance under this section shall be in addition to any other Federal disaster assistance, except that such other assistance may be adjusted or modified to the extent deemed appropriate by the Director under the authority of section 208 of this Act. Any loan made under this section shall be subject to the interest requirements of section 234 of this Act, but the President, if he deems it necessary, may defer payments of principal and interest for a period not to exceed three years after the date of the loan. Any such deferred payments shall bear interest at the rate determined under section 234 of this Act.

FOOD COUPONS AND DISTRIBUTION

SEC. 238. (a) Whenever the President determines that, as a result of a major disaster, low-income households are unable to purchase adequate amounts of nutritious food, he is authorized, under such terms and conditions as he may prescribe, to distribute through the Secretary of Agriculture coupon allotments to such households pursuant to the provisions of the Food Stamp Act of 1964 and to make surplus commodities available pursuant to the provisions of section 203 of this Act.

(b) The President, through the Secretary of Agriculture, is authorized to continue to make such coupon allotments and surplus commodities available to such households for so long as he determines necessary, taking into consideration such factors as he deems appropriate, including the consequences of the major disaster on the earning power of the households to which assistance is made available under this section.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as amending or otherwise changing the provisions of the Food Stamp Act of 1964 except as they relate to the availability of food stamps in a major disaster area.

LEGAL SERVICES

SEC. 239. Whenever the Director determines that low-income individuals are unable to secure legal services adequate to meet their needs as a consequence of a major disaster, consistent with the goals of the programs authorized by this Act, the Director shall assure that such programs are conducted with the advice and assistance of appropriate Federal agencies and State and local bar associations.

UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

SEC. 240. The President is authorized to provide to any individual unemployed as a result of a major disaster, such assistance as he deems appropriate while such individual is unemployed. Such assistance as the President shall provide shall not exceed to maximum amount and the maximum duration of payment under the unemployment compensation program of the State in which the disaster occurred, and the amount of assistance under this section to any such individual shall be reduced by any amount of unemployment compensation or of private income protection insurance compensation available to such individual for such period of unemployment.

COMMUNITY DISASTER GRANTS

SEC. 241. The President is authorized to make grants to any local government which, as the result of a major disaster, has suffered a substantial loss of property tax revenue (both real and personal). Grants made under this section may be made for the tax year in which the disaster occurred and for each of the following two tax years. The grant for any tax year shall not exceed the difference between the annual average of all property tax revenues received by the local government during the three-tax-year period immediately preceding the tax year in which the major disaster occurred and the actual property tax revenue received by the local government for the tax year in which the disaster occurred and for each of the two tax years following the major disaster but only if there has been no reduction in the tax rates and the tax assessment valuation factors of the local government. If there has been a reduction in the tax rates or the tax assessment valuation factors then, for the purpose of determining the amount of a grant under this section for the year or years when such reduction is in effect, the President shall use the tax rates and tax assessment valuation factors of the local government in effect at the time of the disaster without reduction, in order to determine the property tax revenues which would have been received by the local government but for such reduction.

TIMBER SALE CONTRACTS

SEC. 242. (a) Where an existing timber sale contract between the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior and a timber purchaser does not provide relief from major physical change not due to negligence of the purchaser prior to approval of construction of any section of specified road or of any other specified development facility and, as a result of a major disaster, a major physical change results in additional construction work in connection with such road or facility by such purchaser with an estimated cost, as determined by the appropriate Secretary, (1) of more than \$1,000 for sales under one million board feet, (2) of more than \$1 per thousand board feet for sales of one of three million board feet, or (3) of more than \$3,000 for sales over three million board feet, such increased construction cost shall be borne by the United States.

(b) If the Secretary determines that damages are so great that restoration, reconstruction, or construction is not practical under the cost-sharing arrangement authorized by subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary may allow cancellation of the contract notwithstanding contrary provisions therein.

(c) The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to reduce to seven days the minimum period of advance public notice required by the first section of the Act of June 4, 1897 (16 U.S.C. 476), in connection with the sale of timber from national forests, whenever the Secretary determines that (1) the sale of such timber will assist in the construction of any area of a State damaged by a major disaster, (2) the sale of such timber will assist in sustaining the economy of such area, or (3) the sale of such timber is necessary to salvage the value of timber damaged in such major disaster or to protect undamaged timber.

(d) The President, when he determines it to be in the public interest, and acting through the Director of Emergency Preparedness, is authorized to make grants to any State or local government for the purpose of removing from privately owned lands timber damaged as a result of a major disaster, and such State or local government is authorized upon application, to make payments out of such grants to any person for reimbursement of expenses actually incurred by such person in the removal of damaged timber, not to exceed the amount that such expenses exceed the salvage value of such timber.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE RESTORATION

SEC. 243. No loan or grant made by any relief organization operating under the supervision of the Director, for the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of any residential structure located in a major disaster area shall be made unless such structure will be repaired, restored, reconstructed, or replaced in accordance with applicable standards of safety, decency, and sanitation and in conformity with applicable building codes and specifications.

FEDERAL FACILITIES

SEC. 251. The President may authorize any Federal agency to repair, reconstruct, restore, or replace any facility owned by the United States and under the jurisdiction of such agency which is damaged or destroyed by any major disaster if he determines that such repair, reconstruction, restoration, or replacement is of such importance and urgency that it cannot reasonably be deferred pending the enactment of specific authorizing legislation or the making of an appropriation for such purposes. In order to carry out the provisions of this section, such repair, reconstruction, restoration, or replacement may be begun notwithstanding a lack or an insufficiency of funds appropriated for such purpose, where such lack or insufficiency can be remedied by the transfer, in accordance with law, of funds appropriated to that agency for another purpose.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

SEC. 252. (a) The President is authorized to make contributions to State or local governments to repair, restore, reconstruct, or replace public facilities belonging to such State or local governments which were damaged or destroyed by a major disaster, except that the Federal contribution therefor shall not exceed 100 per centum of the net cost of repairing, restor-

ing, reconstructing, or replacing any such facility on the basis of the design of such facility as it existed immediately prior to such disaster and in conformity with applicable codes, specifications, and standards.

(b) In the case of any such public facilities which were in the process of construction when damaged or destroyed by a major disaster, the Federal contribution shall not exceed 50 per centum of the net costs of restoring such facilities substantially to their prior to such disaster condition and of completing construction not performed prior to the major disaster to the extent the increase of such cost over the original construction cost is attributable to changed conditions resulting from a major disaster.

(c) For the purposes of this section "public facility" includes any flood control, navigation, irrigation, reclamation, public power, sewage treatment and collection, water supply and distribution, watershed development, or airport facility, any non-Federal-aid street, road, or highway, and any other public building, structure, or system, other than one used exclusively for recreation purposes.

PRIORITY TO CERTAIN APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC FACILITY AND PUBLIC HOUSING ASSISTANCE

SEC. 253. In the processing of applications for assistance, priority and immediate consideration may be given, during such period, not to exceed six months, as the President shall prescribe by proclamation, to applications from public bodies situated in major disaster areas, under the following Acts:

(1) title II of the Housing Amendments of 1955, or any other Act providing assistance for repair, construction, or extension of public facilities;

(2) the United States Housing Act of 1937 for the provision of low-rent housing;

(3) section 702 of the Housing Act of 1954 for assistance in public works planning;

(4) section 702 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 providing for grants for public facilities; or

(5) section 306 of the Consolidated Farmers Home Administration Act.

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

SEC. 254. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person otherwise eligible for any kind of relocation assistance payment authorized under section 114 of the Housing Act of 1949 shall be denied such eligibility as a result of his being unable, because of a major disaster as determined by the President, to reoccupy property from which he was displaced by such disaster.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

SEC. 301. (a) Section 701(a)(3)(B)(ii) of the Housing Act of 1954 (40 U.S.C. 461(a)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended to read as follows: "(ii) have suffered substantial damage as a result of a major disaster as determined by the President pursuant to the Disaster Relief Act of 1970".

(b) Section 8(b)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1706c(b)(2)) is amended by striking out of the last proviso "section 2(a) of the Act

entitled 'An Act to authorize Federal assistance to States and local governments in major disasters, and for other purposes' (Public Law 875, Eighty-first Congress, approved September 30, 1950)" and inserting in lieu thereof "section 102(1) of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970".

(c) Section 203(h) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(h)) is amended by striking out "section 2(a) of the Act entitled 'An Act to authorize Federal assistance to States and local governments in major disasters and for other purposes' (Public Law 875, Eighty-first Congress, approved September 30, 1950), as amended" and inserting in lieu thereof "section 102(1) of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970".

(d) Section 221(f) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715l(f)) is amended by striking out of the last paragraph "the Act entitled 'An Act to authorize Federal assistance to States and local governments in major disasters, and for other purposes', approved September 30, 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1855-1855g)" and inserting in lieu thereof "the Disaster Relief Act of 1970".

(e) Section 7(a)(1)(A) of the Act of September 30, 1950 (Public Law 874, Eighty-first Congress, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 241-1(a)(1)(A)), is amended by striking out "pursuant to section 2(a) of the Act of September 30, 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1855a(a))" and inserting in lieu thereof pursuant to section 102(1) of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970".

(f) Section 16(a) of the Act of September 23, 1950 (79 Stat. 1158; 20 U.S.C. 646(a)) is amended by striking out "section 2(a) of the Act of September 30, 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1855a(a))" and inserting in lieu thereof "section 102(1) of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970".

(g) Section 408(a) of the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 (20 U.S.C. 758(a)) is amended by striking out "section 2(a) of the Act of September 30, 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1855a(a))" and inserting in lieu thereof "section 102(1) of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970".

(h) Section 165(h)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, relating to disaster losses (26 U.S.C. 165(h)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) occurring in an area subsequently determined by the President of the United States to warrant assistance by the Federal Government under the Disaster Relief Act of 1970,".

(i) Section 5064(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 5064(a)), relating to losses caused by disaster, is amended by striking out "the Act of September 30, 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1855)" and inserting in lieu thereof "the Disaster Relief Act of 1970".

(j) Section 5708(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 5708(a)), relating to losses caused by disaster, is amended by striking out "the Act of September 30, 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1855)" and inserting in lieu thereof "the Disaster Relief Act of 1970".

(k) Section 3 of the Act of June 30, 1954 (68 Stat. 330; 48 U.S.C. 1681), is amended by striking out of the last sentence "section 2 of the Act of September 30, 1950 (64 Stat. 1109), as amended (42 U.S.C. 1855a)" and inserting in lieu thereof "section 102(1) of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970".

(l) Whenever reference is made in any provision of law (other than this Act), regulation, rule, record, or document of the United States to the Act of September 30, 1950 (64 Stat. 1109), or any provision of such Act, such reference shall be deemed to be a reference to the Disaster Relief Act of 1970 or to the appropriate provision of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970 unless no such provision is included therein.

REPEAL OF EXISTING LAW

SEC. 302. *The following Acts are hereby repealed:*

- (1) *the Act of September 30, 1950 (64 Stat. 1109);*
- (2) *the Disaster Relief Act of 1966, except section 7 (80 Stat. 1316); and*
- (3) *the Disaster Relief Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 125).*

PRIOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

SEC. 303. *Funds allocated before the date of enactment of this Act under a Federal-State Disaster Agreement for the relief of a major disaster as defined in the Act of September 30, 1950 (Public Law 875, Eighty-first Congress), and not expended on the date of enactment of this Act may be used by the State to make payments to any person for reimbursement of expenses actually incurred by such person in the removal of debris from community areas, but not to exceed the amount that such expenses exceed the salvage value of such debris, or in otherwise carrying out the purposes of such Act of September 30, 1950, or this Act.*

EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 304. *This Act shall take effect immediately upon its enactment, except that sections 226(b), 237, 241, 252(a), and 254 shall take effect as of August 1, 1969, and sections 231, 232, and 233 shall take effect as of April 1, 1970.*

And the House agree to the same.

ROBERT E. JONES,
JIM WRIGHT,
HAROLD T. JOHNSON,
DON H. CLAUSEN,
FRED SCHWENGEL,

Managers on the Part of the House.

BIRCH BAYH,
WILLIAM B. SPONG, Jr.,
THOMAS F. EAGLETON,
ROBERT DOLE,
EDWARD J. GURNEY,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

STATEMENT OF THE MANAGERS ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

The managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 3619) to revise and expand Federal programs for relief from the effects of major disasters, and for other purposes, submit the following statement in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the conferees and recommended in the accompanying conference report:

The House amendment struck out all of the Senate bill after the enacting clause and inserted a substitute. The Senate recedes from its disagreement to the amendment of the House, with an amendment which is a substitute for both the Senate bill and the House amendment. The differences between the House amendment and the substitute agreed to in conference are noted below except for minor technical and clarifying changes made necessary by reason of the conference agreement.

The bill as passed by the Senate establishes an entirely new basic Federal disaster relief law and repeals all of the major substantive provisions dealing with this subject which are presently on the statute books. The House amendment, by a series of cut-and-bite amendments, retained all of the existing provisions of law but expanded them and tied them together through uniformity of definition and otherwise. The proposed conference substitute adopts the approach of the Senate bill and provides for a new basic law and the repeal of existing statutes on the subject.

TITLE I

SHORT TITLE

Senate bill

This section provided that the Act may be cited as the "Disaster Assistance Act of 1970".

House amendment

This section provided that the Act may be cited as the "Disaster Relief Act of 1970".

Conference substitute

The same as the House provision.

FINDINGS AND DECLARATION

Senate bill

The Congress would find and declare that because major disasters cause loss of life, human suffering, loss of income, property loss and damage and because such disasters disrupt the normal functioning of government and the community special measures are required to expedite assistance and emergency welfare services and reconstruct and rehabilitate devastated areas.

The Congress would under this Act provide orderly and continuing means of alleviating suffering and damage by (1) revising and broadening existing major disaster relief programs (2) encouraging development of comprehensive State disaster plans and (3) achieving greater coordination and responsiveness of Federal major disaster relief programs.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

The conference substitute is essentially the same as the Senate provisions with minor clarifying amendments to more clearly express the intention of Congress.

DEFINITIONS

Senate bill

Definitions in this section are the same as P.L. 875, 81st Congress, except for the addition of the words "tornado, highwater, wind-driven water, and tidal wave" to the definition of "major disaster."

House amendment

Amends the definition of the term "major disaster" in Public Law 81-875 to require that Governors certify a need for "Federal disaster assistance" rather than just assistance under Public Law 81-875. The amendment also deletes a reference to the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia since that Board no longer exists.

Amends the definition of the term State to include the District of Columbia.

Deletes the reference to the District of Columbia in the definition of local government.

Conference substitute

Except for minor clarifying amendments, this is the same as the provisions of the Senate bill.

TITLE II

FEDERAL COORDINATING OFFICER

Senate bill

Section 201 provides for the presidential appointment of a Federal Coordinating Officer for the designated disaster area. The duties of this officer would include but not necessarily be limited to these functions: 1) initial appraisal of the relief most needed, 2) establishment of field offices, 3) coordination of relief distribution activities, and 4) supervision of emergency support teams and other actions to assist local citizens and officials to receive aid.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

This is essentially the same as the Senate provisions, expanded however to include the Salvation Army, and the Mennonite Disaster Service, as well as the American National Red Cross as among those

agencies whose activities would be coordinated with a disclaimer that nothing in the Act is to limit or affect the responsibilities of the Red Cross under the Act of January 5, 1905, as amended.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAMS

Senate bill

Section 202 would authorize the Director to form emergency support teams and personnel to assist the Federal Coordinating Officer in carrying out his responsibilities as defined under section 201.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

This is essentially the provisions of the Senate bill with amendments to require the support teams to be of Federal personnel and to specifically authorize the head of any Federal department or agency to detail to temporary duty with these emergency support teams, either on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, personnel within the jurisdiction of his department or agency.

COOPERATION OF FEDERAL AGENCIES

Senate bill

This section would authorize Federal agencies to assist disaster areas in several ways, including: the utilization or lending of personnel, facilities, supplies, equipment, and other resources except extension of credit, with or without compensation, to State and local governments; the distribution of medicine, food and other consumable supplies and the rendering of emergency services through relief and disaster assistance organizations; the donation or lending of Federal surplus equipment and supplies; and the performing on public or private lands or waters of any emergency work essential for the protection and preservation of life and property.

Such emergency work would include clearing and removing debris and wreckage. It would also include making repairs, or restoring to service, damaged or destroyed public facilities belonging to State and local governments, except that the Federal contribution would not exceed the net cost of restoring such facilities to their predisaster capacity.

Assistance by Federal agencies would also provide for emergency shelter for individuals and families who require such assistance because of a major disaster.

Federal agencies could also make contributions to State or local governments for the purpose of carrying out the types of assistance authorized under section 203(a)(4).

Emergency work performed under section 203(a)(4) would not bar additional Federal assistance under any other section of the Act.

Federal agencies could be reimbursed for services and supplies under section 203(a) from funds appropriated under this Act. Any funds paid to Federal agencies for services or supplies furnished under the provisions of this section would be deposited to the credit of the appropriation or appropriations currently available for such services or supplies.

The Federal Government would not be liable for any claim based on the exercise or performance, or failure to exercise or perform, of a Federal agency or employee in carrying out the provisions of this section.

Any Federal agency designated by the President to exercise authority under this Act could establish and fund the necessary expenses of special groups, interdepartmental or otherwise, which it deemed appropriate to assist in carrying out Federal disaster preparedness and assistance laws.

Any Federal agency carrying out the provisions of this Act could accept and utilize facilities, funds, and services furnished by State or local governments or their personnel, and such Federal agency could temporarily employ additional personnel without regard to civil service laws and could contract or incur obligations on behalf of the United States for acquisition or rental of equipment, services, materials or supplies for shipping, drayage, travel and communications, and for supervising and administering such activities. Such obligations, including those for employment of temporary additional personnel could be incurred by a Federal agency in whatever amount the President made available to it.

The President would further be authorized to coordinate the activities of Federal agencies providing disaster assistance, direct any Federal agency to utilize its funds, personnel, equipment, supplies, facilities, and other resources, prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary, and exercise any power or authority conferred on him by any section of this Act either directly or through whatever Federal agency he designates.

Finally, through the Office of Emergency Preparedness, the President would periodically review the disaster assistance activities of Federal and State departments and agencies, in order to assure maximum coordination, and to evaluate progress in the development of Federal, State and local preparedness to cope with major disasters.

House amendment

Revises section 3(d) of Public Law 81-875 to provide that Federal contributions for permanent repair or replacement of public facilities of State and local governments shall not exceed the net cost of restoring such facilities, using the basis of design of the facilities as they existed immediately prior to the disaster, but in conformity with current codes and specifications.

Revises section 4, Public Law 81-875 to add the Salvation Army as a private relief organization authorized to distribute needed supplies in a disaster area.

Provides for the Director, OEP, to study and investigate what can be done to provide effective action to prevent or lessen losses of property and personal injury or deaths which could result from forest or grass fires, earthquakes, tornadoes, freezes and frosts, tsunamis, storm surges and tides and floods which are or threaten to become major disasters. A report of the study and investigation to include recommendations should be submitted to the Congress no later than one year after enactment.

Conference substitute

This is essentially the same as the provisions of the Senate bill, expanded to include the Salvation Army and the Mennonite Disaster Service, specifically, in the provision dealing with the disposition of

certain medicine, food, and supplies and the rendering of emergency assistance, and to restrict the donation of certain equipment and supplies to State and local governments for their use or disposition in carrying out the purposes of the Act. It also authorizes emergency work including the making of repairs to, restoring to service, or replacing public facilities (including street, road, and highway facilities) of State and local governments damaged or destroyed by a major disaster, except that the Federal contribution therefor shall not exceed the net cost of restoring each such facility on the basis of the design of the facility as it existed immediately before the disaster, such restoration to be in conformity with current codes, specifications, and standards. The provisions of subsection (e) of this section of the Senate bill have been eliminated as unnecessary. The requirements in the House amendment of an investigation and study to determine what additional improved plans, procedures, and facilities are necessary to prevent or minimize property loss or damage and personal injuries and deaths from fires (forest and grass) earthquakes, tornadoes, freezes and frosts, tsunamis, storms, surges, tides, and floods have been added to this section.

USE OF LOCAL FIRMS AND INDIVIDUALS

Senate bill

Section 204 provides that in expending Federal funds for debris clearance, distribution of supplies, reconstruction and other major disaster assistance activities carried out by contract with private organizations, firms or individuals, preference should be given in awarding such contracts to residents and persons who do business primarily in the disaster area.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the Senate bill.

FEDERAL GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAMS

Senate bill

Any agency administering aid to disaster areas would be authorized to waive the conditions, except matching provisions, for receipt of Federal grant-in-aid programs as would otherwise prevent the giving of assistance for the duration of the disaster proclamation, if inability to meet such conditions resulted from the disaster.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the Senate bill. Limited, however, to a waiver of administrative procedural conditions rather than all conditions for assistance.

STATE DISASTER PLANS

Senate bill

This section provides for the formulation by the States of comprehensive plans and programs for preparation against major disasters and their losses. Grants up to \$250,000 would be made by the President to any applicant State on a matching basis for no more than half the

cost of developing such plans and programs and up to \$25,000 per annum would be made available to update and improve the developed plans.

To be eligible for a planning grant, a State would have to establish or designate an agency which would be responsible for developing and administering its disaster relief plan and program.

The resultant plan should include a comprehensive and detailed State program for preparation against and relief following a major disaster and include provisions for the appointment of a State coordinating office to assist the Federal coordinating officer appointed under section 201 of this Act.

From time to time, the Director would prepare a report to the President, for submission to the Congress, containing his recommendations for the Federal role in implementing, funding, and coordinating disaster relief activities.

House amendment

Amends section 8(c) of Public Law 91-79 to eliminate the cutoff date for State plans and provides that plans developed under this section shall be applicable to local governments as well as individuals.

Further amends section 8 of Public Law 91-79 by authorizing matching grants to States up to \$25,000 per annum for purposes of improving, maintaining, and updating State disaster assistance plans.

Conference substitute

This is the same as the Senate provision except for a clarifying amendment.

USE AND COORDINATION OF RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS

Senate bill

The Director would be authorized to make agreements with relief or disaster assistance organizations, including but not limited to the American National Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, to help the distribution of food, clothing, medicine and other supplies, and the restoration rehabilitation or reconstruction of community services and facilities. The Director would be authorized to make agreements with organizations which would allow the Federal coordinating officer to coordinate all relief activities of private agencies in a given disaster area. Such agreements would have to include provisions for compliance with regulations promulgated under sections 208 (duplication of benefits) and 209 (nondiscrimination).

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

This is essentially the same as the provisions of the Senate bill except for amendments to specifically include in both subsections the Salvation Army and the Mennonite Disaster Service.

DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS

Senate bill

The Director would be required to ascertain that no person or business would be receiving aid from more than one source for the same disaster damage. No person or business could receive assistance

from the government for any loss compensated by insurance, but partial compensation for a loss would not preclude additional Federal assistance for such part of the loss not compensated for otherwise. The Director would be required to determine whether any person had received duplicate benefits. Whenever the Director determined that a person or business had received assistance from more than one source which exceeded the amount of the loss, he would direct that person or business to reimburse the Federal Government for the part he deemed excessive but not in excess of the amount of Federal assistance received.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the Senate provisions.

NONDISCRIMINATION IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Senate bill

The Director would be required to issue regulations forbidding discrimination by race, color, age, sex, nationality, religion or economic status in providing disaster relief supplies and services. Any relief organization participating in the distribution of assistance or supplies under section 207 must comply with these regulations relating to non-discrimination.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the Senate provision.

ADVISORY PERSONNEL

Senate bill

The Director would be authorized to assign advisory personnel to the chief executive officer of a State or local government upon the request by such executive officer, in order to insure full utilization of relief and assistance resources and programs.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Does not contain this provision.

DISASTER WARNINGS

Senate bill

The President would be authorized to provide needed warning to governmental authorities and civilian population in areas endangered by imminent natural disasters.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the Senate provision.

PREDISASTER ASSISTANCE

Senate bill

The President would be authorized to utilize Federal resources to assist States or local governments in preparations for an imminent major disaster to avert or lessen its effects.

House amendment

Permits the President to take effective action to avert or lessen the effects of a catastrophe which threatens to become a major disaster. It is not necessary for the President to declare a major disaster before assistance can be provided under this section.

Conference substitute

Same as the provisions of the House amendment.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Senate bill

The Director would be authorized to establish emergency communications in any major disaster area which would be made available to State and local government officials and other persons as he saw fit.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Essentially the same as the Senate provision, restricted, however, to the establishment of temporary communications during or in anticipation of an emergency.

EMERGENCY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Senate bill

Emergency public transportation to governmental offices, supply centers, stores, post offices, schools, and major employment centers would be authorized in a major disaster area where regular public transportation had been disrupted in order that the community's normal pattern of life could be resumed as soon as possible.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the Senate provision, restricted, however, to authority to provide temporary public transportation service.

DEBRIS REMOVAL

Senate bill

The President would be authorized to make grants to State and local governments for removal of debris from private lands or waters whenever he determined it to be in the public interest: except that these benefits would not be available unless State or local governments arranged unconditional authorization for the removal of debris and agreed to indemnify the Federal government for any claims resulting from this debris removal. Payments could also be made to remove debris from community areas which included an individual's private property.

House amendment

Authorizes the use of Federal agencies to clear debris from publicly and privately owned lands and waters, when determined to be in the public interest. Authorization is also provided for grants to any State for similar debris clearance. A requirement is imposed that State and local governments must arrange to provide unconditional authorizations for the removal of such debris and that the Federal Government be indemnified against claims arising from such removal.

Conference substitute

Same as the provisions of the House amendment.

FIRE SUPPRESSION GRANTS

Senate bill

The President would be authorized to make grants to any State in order to assist in the suppression of fires on publicly or privately owned forest and grass lands which threatened such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the Senate provisions.

TEMPORARY HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Senate bill

The Director would be authorized to provide necessary shelter for owners or tenants whose places of residence had been made uninhabitable by a major disaster. Dwelling accommodations necessary for this purpose, including mobile homes, could be purchased or leased, and in turn could be rented or sold outright to the disaster victims to provide them with suitable housing. The housing would be placed by the State or local government or by the owner or occupant on sites complete with utilities without charge to the United States. The Director could decide in the public interest to provide more economical and accessible sites at Federal expense.

After an initial 90 days of occupancy rentals could be established. These rentals could be compromised, adjusted or waived for a period of not to exceed one year from date of occupancy according to the financial ability of the occupants, but in no case could the family's monthly housing expense be required to be more than one-fourth the family's monthly income.

The Director would be further authorized to provide grants as temporary assistance in the form of mortgage or rental payments to individuals who had suffered severe financial hardship caused by a major disaster and who had received written notice of dispossession or eviction from their residence because of foreclosure of a mortgage or lien, cancellation of a contract of sale, or termination of an oral or written lease. This assistance could be furnished for not in excess of one year or until the individual's financial hardship ended, whichever was the lesser. In addition the Director would provide reemployment assistance services to individuals who were unemployed as a result of a major disaster.

House amendment

Revises section 3(d) of Public Law 81-875 to provide that no rental shall be charged for the first 12 months for temporary housing and after that rentals to be charged based on fair market value adjusted to take into consideration the financial ability of the occupant to pay.

Provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, such temporary housing including, but not limited to mobile homes or other readily fabricated buildings which were purchased under proper disaster authorities for disaster victims requiring accommodations may be sold directly to disaster victims who are occupants at fair and equitable prices.

This section would authorize the President to provide financial assistance in the form of mortgage or rental payments to individuals or families who had suffered financial hardship caused by a major disaster, and who had received written notice of dispossession or eviction from their residence. The assistance could be furnished for not in excess of one year, or for the duration of the financial hardship, whichever is the lesser.

Conference substitute

This provision would authorize the Director to provide temporary housing or other emergency shelter, including mobile homes, for those who as a result of a major disaster require temporary housing or other emergency shelter. For the first 12 months of occupancy, no rental shall be established. Thereafter, rentals will be based on fair market value of the accommodations being furnished, adjusted to take into consideration financial ability of the occupant. Emergency housing which is acquired by purchase may be sold directly to the occupants at prices that are fair and equitable. Any mobile home or readily fabricated dwelling is to be placed on a site complete with utilities provided by State or local government or by the owner or occupant of the site without charge to the United States. The Director may elect to provide other more economical and accessible sites at Federal expense if he determines it to be in the public interest. Further, the President is authorized to provide assistance on a temporary basis in the form of mortgage or rental payments in the same manner as is provided in the House amendment. The President is authorized for the purposes of this provision and in furtherance of the purposes of section 240 of this Act to provide reemployment assistance services under other laws to individuals who are unemployed as a result of a major disaster.

SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER LOANS

Senate bill

This section would amend Section 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act to provide that in the case of property loss or damage as the result of either a major disaster declared by the President or a disaster as determined by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the S.B.A. could make loans for the repair, rehabilitation or replacement of such property without regard to whether the necessary financial assistance is otherwise available from private sources.

S.B.A. could refinance any mortgage or other lien outstanding against a home or business which had been totally destroyed or substantially damaged by such a disaster if the refinancing was for the

purpose of repairing, rehabilitating or replacing the damaged or destroyed property. This refinancing could be provided even if financial assistance was otherwise available.

The section would further provide that the principal of any disaster loan in excess of \$500 could be cancelled in an amount not in excess of \$2500. Payments of interest or principal could be wholly or partially deferred during the first three years of the term regardless of the ability of the borrower to make payments.

Section 231(b) would amend Section 7 of the Small Business Act to authorize the S.B.A. to make a loan to a small business concern located in an area affected by a disaster, if the S.B.A. determined that the concern had suffered a substantial economic injury as a result of such a disaster.

House amendment

Amends section 6 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1969, concerning the disaster loan authorities of the Small Business Administration by:

(1) Including as eligible for SBA disaster loans, such injury, loss, or damage which may result from a disaster when determined by (a) the Secretary of Agriculture; (b) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration; and (c) the President.

(2) Providing for standardizing the interest rates on loans. [even though assistance may be available from private sources.] The maximum allowable interest rate would be 6 percent.

(3) Providing that loans shall not be denied on the basis of the age of the applicant.

(4) Providing that such loans may not exceed the current repair or replacement cost of the disaster loss.

(5) Providing that in cases of hardship resulting from Presidentially determined disaster, the borrower may cancel the principal of any loan in excess of \$500, up to \$2,500.

(6) Provide for refinancing of mortgages and loans.

(7) Provide for loans without regard to whether private sources are available for such loans.

Conference substitute

In the administration of the disaster loan program under section 7(b) (1), (2), and (4) of the Small Business Act in the case of property loss or damage or injury resulting from a major disaster as determined by the President or a disaster determined by the Small Business Administrator, such Administrator—

(1) to the extent the loss, damage, or injury is not compensated for by insurance or otherwise (A) shall on that part of the loan in excess of \$500 cancel the principal, except that the total amount so canceled is not to be more than \$2,500. This clause, however, is to apply only to loans made to cover losses, damages, and injuries resulting from major disasters determined by the President, and (B) may defer interest or principal payments or both in whole or in part during the first three years of the term of the loan, these deferred payments, however, are to bear interest at the rate determined under section 234 of the Act;

(2) to the extent it is not compensated for by insurance or otherwise, may grant any loan to repair, rehabilitate, or replace property damaged or destroyed, whether or not financial assistance is otherwise available from private sources;

(3) may, in the case of total destruction or substantial damage of a home or business concern, refinance mortgages or other liens outstanding against that property if it is to be repaired, rehabilitated, or replaced with the limitation that the amount refinanced is not to exceed the amount of the physical loss sustained and that this refinancing is to be subject to the provisions of clauses (1) and (2) of this section.

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION AGENCY LOANS

Senate bill

In the case of loss or damage to property, including household furnishings, resulting from a major disaster, the Secretary of Agriculture would be authorized by this section to make loans for the repair, rehabilitation or replacement of such property, and in the case of the total destruction of or substantial damage to a home or business concern resulting from a major disaster, to refinance any mortgage or other lien against such property for the purpose of repairing, rehabilitating or replacing the destroyed or damaged property.

To the extent such loss or damage was not compensated for by insurance or otherwise, the Secretary could, on the part of any loan or refinanced mortgage or lien in excess of \$500, cancel not to exceed \$2,500, and also could defer interest or principal payments, or both, during the first 3 years of the loan whether or not the borrower had the ability to make such payments.

House amendment

Provides the same amendments for Farmers Home Administration as for the Small Business Administration.

Conference substitute

This would provide the same benefits in the case of the Farmers Home Administration emergency loans as are provided in the conference substitute in the case of Small Business Administration loans.

LOANS HELD BY THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION

Senate bill

This section would amend section 1820(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Administrator of the Veterans' Administration to agree to the modification of the terms of any loan made or acquired by him on any residential property securing such loan which was lost, destroyed, or damaged as the result of a major disaster. The section also would direct the Administrator in major disaster areas to provide the owner of such property with counseling and other services, to inform him of disaster assistance available from other Federal, state or local agencies and to extend such forbearance on an individual case basis as he determined to be warranted by the facts of the case.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the Senate bill.

DISASTER LOAN INTEREST RATES

Senate bill

Any disaster loan made by a Federal agency under Sections 231, 232, 236(b), 237 or 241 of this Act would be at an interest rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, taking into consideration the current average market yield on 10-12 year U.S. obligations less not to exceed 2 percent per year. Section 234(b) would make this same rate applicable to all disaster loans under Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act.

House amendment

The House provision relating to the disaster loan program under the Small Business Act and the emergency loan program under the Consolidated Farmers Home Act of 1961 each contains a provision that a loan made under those sections is not to exceed the current cost of repairing and replacing the disaster injury, loss, or damage in conformity with current codes and specifications. Any such loan is to bear interest at a rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, taking into consideration the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with remaining periods to maturity of 10 to 12 years, reduced by not to exceed 1 per centum per annum but in no event is any such loan to bear interest at a rate in excess of 6 percent per annum.

Conference substitute

The provisions of the conference substitute are the same as those of the House amendment but made applicable to sections 231, 232, 236(b), and 237 of the Act and with the reduction in the interest rate not to exceed 2 percent per annum as contained in the Senate bill rather than 1 percent as contained in the House amendment, retaining, however, the ceiling of a 6 percent interest rate on such loans.

AGE OF APPLICANT FOR LOANS

Senate bill

All applicants for Federally administered disaster loans must be considered without discrimination because of age.

House amendment

Provided in the case of S.B.A. and the Farmers Home Administration loans that they are not to be denied on the basis of the applicant's age.

Conference substitute

Same as the Senate provision.

FEDERAL LOAN ADJUSTMENTS

Senate bill

The Secretary of Agriculture would be authorized to extend maturity dates of REA loans to a period not beyond forty years and to re-adjust payment schedules of borrowers from the Rural Electrification Administration, if the borrowers were unable to make payments because of disaster damage. The Secretary of HUD would be authorized to refinance any note or other obligation which could not be paid because of disaster damage. The interest rate could be reduced to a

rate specified pursuant to section 234. The maturity date could be extended to a period not exceeding 40 years. The Secretary could suspend payment of interest and principal and extend maturity of loans which might cause financial hardship.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the provisions of the Senate bill.

AID TO MAJOR SOURCES OF EMPLOYMENT

Senate bill

The S.B.A. or the Farmers Home Administration would be authorized to make loans to industries and businesses which were a major source of employment in a disaster-stricken area and which were no longer in substantial operation. Loans authorized by this section would be made without regard to limitations on the size of loans which might otherwise be imposed by law, regulation or other means. Loans could be at interest rates prescribed in section 234 but, the Administrator would be authorized to defer payments of principal and interest for up to three years.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the provisions of the Senate bill, amended to make it clear that deferred payments are to bear interest at the rate determined under section 234 of the Act.

FOOD COUPONS AND DISTRIBUTION

Senate bill

The President would be authorized to distribute food stamps and surplus commodities to low-income households which were not able to purchase adequate amounts of nutritious food because of a major disaster. Such distribution of food stamps and commodities would be carried out pursuant to legislation now governing the handling of these matters. The President would be authorized to make coupon allotments and surplus commodities available to such households for as long as he determined necessary. He could take into account such factors as the effect of the disaster on the earning power of the recipient households.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the provisions of the Senate bill.

LEGAL SERVICES

Senate bill

The Director would be authorized to provide needed legal services to low-income individuals, with advice and assistance of appropriate Federal agencies and State and local bar associations.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Provides that whenever the Director determines that low-income individuals are unable to secure legal services adequate to meet their needs as a consequence of a major disaster, consistent with the goals of the programs authorized by this Act, the Director shall assure that such programs are conducted with the advice and assistance of appropriate Federal agencies and State and local bar associations. The conferees intend the authority granted by this section to be confined to the securing of benefits under this Act and claims arising out of a major disaster.

UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Senate bill

The President would be authorized to provide assistance to those individuals unemployed as a result of a major disaster who were not receiving unemployment compensation or private income protection insurance. Any assistance provided under this section could not exceed the number of payments such an individual would have received if he had been qualified for State unemployment compensation payments.

House amendment

Makes permanent law the comparable provision of the Disaster Relief Act of 1969 on this subject.

Conference substitute

Same as the provisions of the Senate bill.

ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITIES FOR LOSS OF TAX REVENUE

Senate bill

\$100,000,000 would be authorized for a Community Disaster Loan Fund to be established in the Treasury. This Fund would provide loans to local governments for use for three purposes: 1) meeting interest and principal payments on outstanding bonded indebtedness, 2) paying the local share of Federal grant-in-aid programs necessary for restoration of the disaster area, and 3) providing and maintaining essential public services, such as fire and police protection. To qualify for this kind of loan, a local government would have to have suffered a loss of more than 25 percent of its tax base or such a substantial amount that it could not otherwise meet payments on its obligations, its matching shares or its essential public services. For the first two years these loans would be interest free. The term of such loan may be of such duration as necessary but not to exceed 20 years.

Loans would be made at interest rates specified in Sec. 234. The President would be authorized to defer initial payments on such loans for five years or half the term of the loan, whichever is less.

Loans for any year could not exceed the difference between the average annual tax received by the local government for the three years preceding the disaster and the accrued property tax revenue for each of the three years following the disaster.

Reduction of tax rates and tax assessment valuation factors in effect at the time of the disaster would be prohibited during the three-year period after the disaster. Such sums as the President might determine necessary could be transferred to the Fund from disaster relief appropriations. Interest and principal payments on loans, as well as any other moneys, property or assets derived from operations of this section would be deposited in the Fund.

This Fund would furnish moneys for all loans, expenses and payments for operations under this section. At least once each fiscal year any interest on the average amount of appropriations accumulated as capital in the Fund, less the average undisbursed cash balance in the fund during year, would be paid into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts. The rate of such interest could not exceed that charged for loans from the Fund. The Secretary of the Treasury could defer interest payments but interest would be charged on such deferred payments. Should the President at any time determine that the moneys in the Disaster Loan Fund exceeded present or any reasonable prospective requirements, he could transfer the excess to the general fund of the Treasury or to his disaster relief appropriations.

House amendment

This section would authorize the President to make grants to any local government, which, as a result of a major disaster has suffered a substantial loss of property tax revenue (both real and personal). The limitations placed upon these grants are: (1) They may only be made for the tax year in which disaster occurred and for each of the following two tax years. (2) The grant shall not exceed the difference between the annual average of all property tax revenues received during the three tax year period immediately preceding the tax year in which the major disaster occurred and the actual property tax revenue received for the tax year in which the disaster occurred and for each of the two succeeding tax years. (3) There must be no reduction in tax rates and tax assessment evaluation factors of the local government. If, however, there has been such a reduction, a grant may still be made for the year or years when such reduction is in effect, but, the President shall use the tax rates and tax assessment factors in effect at the time of the disaster without reduction in order to determine revenues which would have been received. These revenues will then be used in calculating the difference as the basis of determining the grant instead of the actual revenues.

Conference substitute

Same as the provisions of the House amendment.

TIMBER SALE CONTRACTS

Senate bill

The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture would be authorized by subsection (a) to reimburse timber sale contractors or to arrange for road and trail construction and restoration costs incurred in restoring roads, previously authorized by contracts for the purchase of timber which had been damaged by major disasters. If the estimated cost of such additional construction would exceed (1) \$1000 for sales under one million board feet, or (2) \$1 per thousand board feet for sales of one to three million board feet, or (3) \$3000 for sales over three million feet, the increased cost would be borne by the United States.

If the Secretary determined that damages were so great that restoration, reconstruction or construction would not be practical under the above-cited sharing arrangement, subsection (b) would authorize him to cancel the contract.

Whenever the Secretary of Agriculture determined that the sale of timber from national forest would assist in construction of a damaged area, or would assist in sustaining the area's economy, or was necessary to salvage the value of the damaged timber, subsection (c) would authorize him to reduce to 7 days the required minimum period of advance notice of sale.

Subsection (d) would authorize the Director to make grants to States or political subdivisions to remove damaged timber from privately owned lands, and such States or political subdivisions in turn would be authorized to reimburse the actual expenses of persons who remove damaged timber but not in excess of the salvage value of the timber.

House amendment

Would continue in effect as permanent law comparable provisions in the Disaster Relief Act of 1969.

Conference substitute

Same as the Senate provision.

PUBLIC LAND ENTRYMAN

Senate bill

The Secretary of the Interior would be authorized to give any public land entryman additional time to comply with requirements of law in connection with a public land entry in any State affected by a major disaster if the Secretary found that because of a major disaster the entryman was unable to comply with such requirement.

House amendment

Would repeal, effective December 31, 1970, the comparable provision in the Disaster Relief Act of 1969.

Conference substitute

Contains no provision on this subject matter.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR STRUCTURE RESTORATION

Senate bill

Subsection (a) would require that minimum standards of safety, decency and sanitation, as prescribed in regulations by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and current building codes and specifications, be applied to the building, repair or rehabilitation of any residential structure in a major disaster area carried out with the aid of loans or grants from Federal agencies or relief organizations. The Secretary would further be authorized to consult with other officials in Federal, State or local governments to carry out the purpose of the section and to have the necessary flexibility to be consistent with requirements of other applicable building regulations, codes and programs.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Provides that no loan or grant made by a relief organization operating under the supervision of the Director of OEP for repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing a residential structure in a major disaster area is to be made unless the structure will be so repaired, restored, reconstructed, or replaced in accordance with the applicable standards of decency and sanitation and in conformity with applicable building codes and specifications.

FEDERAL FACILITIES

Senate bill

Upon the President's determination that repair, reconstruction, restoration or replacement of facilities owned by the United States was so important and urgent that it could not reasonably be deferred pending enactment of specific authorizing legislation or the making of an appropriation, he could authorize any Federal agency to repair, reconstruct, restore or replace any facilities damaged or destroyed in a major disaster that were under its jurisdiction. This work could begin notwithstanding a lack or insufficiency of funds where such lack or insufficiency could be remedied by the transfer, in accordance with law, of funds appropriated for another purpose.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the provisions of the Senate bill.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

Senate bill

The President would be authorized to make contributions to States or local communities for repairing, restoring, reconstructing or replacing damaged portions of public facilities belonging to State or local governments, including flood control, navigation, irrigation, reclamation, public power, sewage treatment and collection, water supply and distribution, watershed development, airport, non-Federal-aid street, road or highway, and any other essential facility damaged by a major disaster. Such Federal contribution could not exceed 50% of the net cost of restoring such facility to its predisaster capacity and in conformity with applicable codes and specifications.

The President could also make contributions to States or local governments in amounts not in excess of 50% of the net cost of restoring such public facilities, which were in the process of construction when damaged or destroyed, to substantially their condition prior to the disaster and of completing construction not performed before the disaster to the extent that the increase in cost over the original construction cost was attributable to changed conditions caused by the disaster.

House amendment

Revises section 3(d) of PL 81-875 to provide that Federal contributions for permanent repair or replacement of public facilities of State and local governments shall not exceed the net cost of restoring

such facilities, using the basis of design of the facilities as they existed immediately prior to the disaster, but in conformity with current codes and specifications.

Conference substitute

Same as the provision of the Senate bill, except that the Federal share is increased from 50 to 100 percent of the net cost of restoring the facility on the basis of the design of the facility as it existed immediately prior to the disaster and in conformity with applicable codes and specifications, and the definition of the term "public facility" contained in the Senate provision is revised to eliminate the concept of "essential public facility" and to replace it with the more specific language of "public building, structure, or system, other than one used exclusively for recreation purposes".

PRIORITY TO CERTAIN APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC FACILITY
AND PUBLIC HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Senate bill

The President by proclamation would prescribe a period not to exceed six months during which processing of applications for assistance would be given priority and immediate assistance under the following Acts: Title II of the Housing Amendments of 1955 or any other act providing assistance for repair, construction or extension of public facilities; the United States Housing Act of 1937 providing low-rent housing; Section 702 of the Housing Act of 1954 providing assistance in public works planning; Section 702 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 providing grants for public facilities; or Section 306 of the Consolidated Farmers Home Administration Act.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the Senate bill.

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

Senate bill

This section would provide that no person otherwise eligible for relocation assistance payments under the Housing Act of 1949 would be denied eligibility as a result of a Presidentially declared major disaster.

House amendment

The House had a similar provision.

Conference substitute

Provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person otherwise eligible for any kind of relocation assistance payment authorized under section 114 of the Housing Act of 1949 shall be denied such eligibility as a result of his being unable, because of a major disaster as determined by the President, to reoccupy property from which he was displaced by such disaster.

TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

Senate bill

Makes various technical amendments in existing laws required by the adoption of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the Senate bill except for technical amendments.

REPEAL OF EXISTING LAW

Senate bill

Repeals three existing disaster laws: the basic 1950 Act (64 Stat 1109), the Disaster Relief Act of 1966 (80 Stat 1316) except for Section 7 (Higher Education Facilities Assistance in Disaster Areas) and the Disaster Relief Act of 1969.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Same as the Senate bill.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Senate bill

Except as provided in sections 206 and 241, such sums as may be necessary would be authorized to be appropriated as would be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

House amendment

No comparable provision.

Conference substitute

Does not contain this kind of authorization since the Act itself authorizes whatever sums are needed to carry it out. Provides instead that funds allocated before the date of enactment of this Act under a Federal-State Disaster Agreement for the relief of a major disaster as defined in the Act of September 30, 1950 (Public Law 875, Eighty-first Congress), and not expended on the date of enactment of this Act may be used by the State to make payments to any person for reimbursement of expenses actually incurred by such person in the removal of debris from community areas, but not to exceed the amount that such expenses exceed the salvage value of such debris, or in otherwise carrying out the purposes of such Act of September 30, 1950, or this Act.

The inclusion of this provision is for emphasis only. It is not in any way to be construed as indicating that funds heretofore authorized for expenditure or that agreements, contracts, claims, or other obligations of any kind presently in being are in any way to be affected by the enactment of this Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Senate bill

The Act would take effect immediately upon enactment, except that sections 226(c), 237, 241, 252(a), and 254 would take effect as of August 1, 1969.

House amendment

Provides that the benefits of this act, and the amendments made by this act, shall apply to those Presidentially declared major disasters, and those disasters and natural disasters as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration which occurred on or after December 1, 1968. In the case of any such disaster which occurs on or after December 1, 1968, and before the date of enactment of this act, the eligible applicant for assistance shall elect to receive such assistance either under this act (including the amendments made by this act) or under the law applicable to such disasters which occurred prior to December 1, 1968.

Conference substitute

Same as the provisions of Senate bill.

ROBERT E. JONES,
JIM WRIGHT,
HAROLD T. JOHNSON,
DON H. CLAUSEN,
FRED SCHWENGEL,

Managers on the Part of the House.





